How to See the Island in One Day

September 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026

The best way to tour the Island in one day is outlined below. Please be sure to set aside at least 8 hours in order to see everything without rushing. The following itinerary takes you from your arrival port of either Oak Bluffs/Vineyard Haven to elegant Edgartown, then rural Up-Island (West Tisbury, Chilmark, Aquinnah, and Menemsha), and back down to Vineyard Haven/Oak Bluffs, the two largest ports on the Island.

Please be sure to check the schedules on our website for any changes prior to travelling, especially on a Sunday or a holiday.

Vineyard Haven Arrival: Take Route #13 to Oak Bluffs, which departs every half hour at :55 and :25 past the hour from 6:55am – 9:55pm. Upon arriving in Oak Bluffs you can enjoy Circuit Avenue, which is the equivalent of a Main Street with shops, ice cream parlors, restaurants, harbor scene, arcade, and is home to America's oldest working carousel, the "Flying Horses". Please note during this time of year, most of these attractions are closed. A short walk from Circuit Ave. is the Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, consisting of hundreds of colorful Victorian gingerbread cottages, it's surely something the whole family will enjoy. If you do not wish to see Oak Bluffs now, you can stay on Route #13 and continue on to Edgartown. If you are departing from Oak Bluffs later in the day, you may want to tour it last.

Note: The Steamship Authority's Oak Bluffs Terminal closes for the season on October 21, 2025, and all boats will arrive and depart from Vineyard Haven only.

Oak Bluffs Arrival: Take #13 to Edgartown, which departs every half hour at :07 and :37 past the hour from 6:07am – 10:07pm. This scenic route will take you past the long stretch of State Beach, along the eastern shore of the Island, and over the famous "Jaws" Bridge. Edgartown is known for its elegant captain's houses and churches that are reminiscent of the whaling era. Edgartown is also home to many great boutiques and fabulous restaurants, as well as a beautiful waterfront and a unique Main Street experience.

From Edgartown to Up-Island: Take Route #6 from Church St. at :57 minutes past every other hour (6:57am, 8:57, 10:57, 12:57pm, 2:57, 4:57pm) to the West Tisbury Town Hall. If you would like to go to Aquinnah (Gay Head) for a view of the brightly colored Gay Head Cliffs and the historic Gay Head Lighthouse, transfer to the Route #5 at :20 past every other hour (7:20am, 9:20, 11:20, 1:20pm, 3:20, 5:20pm).

Aquinnah to Vineyard Haven:
From Aquinnah, take Route #5 at :46 minutes past every other hour (7:46am, 9:46, 11:46, 1:46pm, 3:46 or 5:46pm to the West Tisbury Town Hall. Stay on this bus and it will become the #3 departing West Tisbury at :20 minutes past every other hour (8:20am, 10:20, 12:20pm, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20pm) for Vineyard Haven. While in Vineyard Haven, check out Main Street's shops and sites – don't forget to visit the harbor, one of the Vineyard's two main ports of entry.

If you are departing from a ferry in Oak Bluffs, you will want to take #13 back there which departs every half hour at :55 and :25 past the hour from 5:55am – 7:55pm. Please be sure to check the schedule for exact times during your travel period.
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Please visit our website at www.vineyardtransit.com, or check us out on Facebook and Instagram (@VTA_MV)!

Note: there is no VTA service on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day.